(c) the target set for completion of the job ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK.) : (a) to (c) The upholstery (Seat covers. Galley curtains, Carpets) is maintained and replaced on a regular basis for better cabin ambience as per schedule defined for different types of aircraft in the Indian Airlines fleet.

During inspection, if any seat cover or curtain is found faded or worn out, the same is replaced, during the night stop of an aircraft.

New look of IA fleet

4653. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the upgradation and renovation plan of the Indian Airlines *vis-a-vis* competition from foreign and domestic carriers;

(b) the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the target for completion of the new look of IA fleet ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines in its 61st meeting held on 27th March, 2002 approved the proposal for acquisition of 43 aircraft comprising A-319, A-320 and A-321 from Airbus Industries during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 at a net cost of Rs. 10,089 crores. The Project Report has been submitted by Indian Airlines to Government.

The new aircraft are envisaged to replace the entire fleet of A-300 and B-737 aircraft, in a phased manner, by March, 2005 and will also cater to the annual traffic growth, of about 5% during the five-year period starting 2003-04.

No firm target date for completion of the acquisition process can be indicated at this stage, since the extant procedures for consideration of public investment proposals will have to be followed.

Development of Hyderabad and Bangalore Airports

4654. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1369 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 2002 and state :—

(a) whether it is also a fact that schemes like face-lifting of Vizag Airport were sanctioned for Hyderabad and Bangalore Airports also but have not taken off; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when these schemes are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) At Hyderabad Airport, schemes *viz.* provision of vitrified tiles in place of PVC tiles at ground floor of Rajiv Gandhi Terminal Building, air-conditioning of NT Ramarao Terminal Building, procurement of baggage trolleys, extension of conveyor at ground floor at International Arrival, installation of feeder conveyor at International Departure and provision of passenger chairs have been completed. Polished vitrified tiles in place of PVC tiles flooring at first floor of Rajiv Gandhi Terminal Building, Aerobridge Corridor and VIP rooms are to be provided by September 30, 2003. Provision of canopy on the city side of the Terminal Building is at tender stage and expected to be completed by March 31, 2004.

At Bangalore Airport, schemes *viz.* extension of car park area, decorative false ceiling in concourse area & renovation of flooring in Domestic Departure, renovation of toilets in Domestic Terminal, provision of Murals and Paintings in passenger concourse. Stainless Steel staircase in escalator core area in Arrival Hall, recarpetting of existing car park area and passenger chair and refurnishing of sofa sets have been completed. Provision of canopy on city side, renovation of flooring and extension of glazing on air side and city side of Domestic Departure are in progress and expected to be completed by June 30, 2003.

Concession for Senior Citizens

4655. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) what are the age limits prescribed for senior citizens (both male and female) and what are the benefits allowed to them for performing air journey;

(b) whether Government are aware that wait-listed tickets issued to senior citizens and others eligible for concessional tickets, are rarely confirmed and preference to confirm the tickets is given to those who pay full amount for the tickets; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and whether the existing norms for confirmation of tickets are proposed to be modified to benefit the senior citizens and others ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) The age limit prescribed for males is 65